



OUT ON A LIMB

Volume V, Number 1
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THE JOURNAL OF *THE MONEY TREE*

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Vol. V No. 1

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Myron Xenos, NLG

Publisher of The Money Tree Publications

ANA member since 1961, ANS, NBS

Ken Lowe, NLG

Editor of The Money Tree Publications

ANA, EAC, NBS

THIS N' THAT

For those of you who have been waiting impatiently for the next issue of OUT ON A LIMB, all we can say is "Why? Get a life!". Actually there are a group of really good reasons why what was supposed to be the January issue turned out to be the July issue: I had to do my hair; Myron had a particularly debilitating hangnail; I had to reorganize my auction catalogues alphabetically according to height; and Myron was called to Washington to serve as John Sununu's travel agent.

Regardless, we really do plan on issuing two more copies of OOAL this year. We plan to have our next issue out in time for the A.N.A. Convention in Chicago; and we plan to have a post A.N.A. issue out late in September, but then I also planned to have paid off my MasterCard by 1981. So anyway, let the games begin....

We not so recently received a query asking us "What is this 'Money Tree Money' which I received with my invoice?" Well it seems that Myron has decided to start his own country and is preparing to issue non-circulating legal tender paper money in the denominations of 1 Chapman, 2 Elders, 5 Cogans, 10 Strobridges, 20 Masons, 50 Mehls, 100 Bowerses, and 500 Hessleins. Actually, Myron created the Money Tree Money as a small token of our appreciation to the successful bidders in our mail bid sales. Each Money Tree Dollar (MTD) has its own serial number. However, because of collector's disease, he has created three varieties: each is printed on different color paper. The Money Tree Dollars are good for \$1.00 toward any purchase or bill from the Money Tree. In fact, approximately 10% of the MTD's which we have sent out have already been "cashed in." For the obsessive record keepers, 1000 MTDs were created.

By the way, the double denomination notes, mismatched serial numbers, star notes, error notes, notes struck on variant paper, proofs, and other varieties in the Money Tree Archives will be sold at auction at some point in the future. In fact, if you did not see the type or variety of note listed above for which you are looking, please contact us and we will make one on demand. We aim to please.

I thought you would like to know that Myron has now achieved numismatic immortality (that's IMMORTALITY, not IMMORALITY). In the two volume history of the A.N.A. written by Q. David Bowers, which has been recently released, my partner is in the index. It seems that QDB found in an ad in a 1969 issue of THE NUMISMATIST for Myron Xenos' Security Coin Company.

Along the line of A.N.A. trivia What issue of THE NUMISMATIST had the largest number of pages? It seems that in the July 1960 issue, the A.N.A. included in copies of the 1960 A.N.A. Membership List. Although this membership list was also issued separately with the familiar blue covers, it was inserted in the middle of the issue, sans covers and was included in the regular page numbering sequence. The July issue consisted of page numbers 833 to 1168 with the A.N.A. membership list consisting of page numbers 897 to 1104. Incidentally, Myron pointed out that the enclosed membership list had the page numbers printed on them manually (who happens to be the shortstop for the Toronto Blue Jays). So there!

Myron also posed the question, "When was the last Membership list issued by the A.N.A.? The correct answer is the 287 page large format edition dated May 1964. Why was it the last issue? Because it was subtitled, THE SNEAK-THIEF'S GUIDEBOOK TO PROFITABLE BREAKING AND ENTERING or HIGH PROFITS FROM RARE COIN COLLECTORS.

We really are pleased that so many of you have such nice things to say about our mail bid sale catalogues and about OUT ON A LIMB. Yes, we do think they make fine papier-mache; yes, they do function quite well as wall insulation; and yes, their reputation as shelf levelers has long been known.

All seriousness aside, if you know of any numismatic bibliophile or collector, or any other deviant personality type whom you think should be receiving our publications and is not, please drop us a line with their name and address. We will be happy to send them our forthcoming mail bid sale catalogue. The coincidental occurrence that the "new name" might become an active bidder in our sales has never entered our respective minds

By the way, we know that several of you are not members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society - the only organization specifically devoted to the enjoyment of numismatic literature. Additionally, several of you have let your memberships expire. The future bodes well for this organization. We really think that you will be missing out on lots o' good stuff if you don't join or rejoin. The dues are a mere \$15.00 annually for which you will receive 4 issues of THE ASYLUM, the quarterly journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society and all of the other rights and privileges accorded to the membership. (Translation - as soon as we figure out any other rights and privileges, we'll let you know about them)

The 1991-1992 officers for the NBS are:

President - P. Scott Rubin
Vice-President - Wayne Homren
Secretary-Treasurer - Ken Lowe

Plans are well-underway to create a permanent competitive A.N.A. Convention exhibit category specifically for numismatic literature. If all goes well, and there is no reason why it should not, a numismatic literature exhibit category should be in place for the 1992 A.N.A. convention. Additionally at this summer's A.N.A., the Numismatic Bibliomania Society meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, at 11.00 A.M. At the meeting, not only will there be two speakers, but also two distinguished people will be given the Armand Champa Award for Excellence in Numismatic Literature.

Should you wish to join up, send a check for \$15.00 made out to the N.B.S. or to the NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY. Seeing as how I just happen to be the Secretary-Treasurer of the N.B.S.,

you can either mail the check to The Money Tree address, or to me at my post office box.

N.B.S.
Box 43286
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143

Remember, memberships in the N.B.S. make excellent gifts for the young numismatist of all ages

Additionally, we also understand that at the Numismatic Roundtable about numismatic literature, Armand Champa will be donating some minor door prizes of numismatic literature: a plated Cauffman Sale (Cogan), another plated Cogan sale, a plated Stickney sale, a nice copy of an unplated Jenks, runs of Bolender and Kagin sales, and other material. Those of you who were at the N.B.S. meeting in Pittsburgh will remember that Armand donated dozens upon dozens of neat items; some of the more memorable ones were entire years of MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY, some Chapman catalogues, good Mehl catalogues including a 1941 Dunham, etc.

I also have it on good authority that THE MONEY TREE will be giving out door prizes. (It will be the recipient's responsibility to arrange shipping for his or her door.) There will also be several neat surprises, though none quite so magnificent as the Champa endowment. So come one, come all, bring a friend along.

As usual, the N.B.S. will have a table at the A.N.A. Convention. The table has tended to be a constant gathering place for bibliomaniacs. Drop by to say hello. Or better yet, drop by to talk, to kibbitz, or to show off your special treasures. Why not drop off your dues at the table. As Myron and I will be at the convention from Tuesday through Saturday, you can always have us paged.

By the way, this will be a wonderful opportunity to discuss consigning your important numismatic literature - whether it is one special piece or your entire library - to The Money Tree. The most prominent collectors and numismatic personalities consign to us, and consign to us constantly. We sincerely believe that you will be pleased both at the manner in which your material is presented in our catalogue, and at the results that your items receive. We would really like to meet all of you. So please drop by the NBS table, or feel free to have us paged. If you do not want to wait, you can always contact us now.

Because of the historical importance of this year's A.N.A. convention, we would encourage each of you to attend. We genuinely believe that this may be the last opportunity we will have to see so many illustrious numismatic figures in one place at one time. We would encourage you to attend as many of the Numismatic Theatre presentations and special meetings as possible. Bring your autograph books; bring your books to be autographed. Bring your cameras, your minicams, your maxicams. This is going to be one for the ages.

As a special treat, Armand Champa will be exhibiting many of his rare, historic, and special treasures of numismatic literature in a non-competitive exhibit. The A.N.A. has given him something like 25 cases, which he has every intention to fill. You may recall that we have written in the past about the "Invasion of Louisville" the marvelous, memorable pilgrimage that a group of us numismatic bibliophiles made to Armand and Kay Champa's during the A.N.A. in Cincinnati. For those of you who unfortunately were unable to see the treasures in what is generally considered to be the finest private numismatic library in the country and one of the greatest ever, this is an opportunity you will not want to miss.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR NEXT AUCTION

We are doing something a bit different with our summer auction of numismatic literature. Normally we have a closing date near the end of July. However, this summer's auction will not close until Monday August 26. The catalogues will be mailed out in the middle of July. As this sale will probably be our best to date (if I may say so myself) and by far our largest, we figure that this will give us a special opportunity at the A.N.A. to answer any questions which you may have about the various items, and a more leisurely opportunity to discuss the auction.

Among the highlights will be an 1875 edition of Crosby's COINS OF AMERICA, a rare original 1845 edition of Riddell's MONOGRAPH OF THE DOLLAR, a complete set of original plates for the Chapmans' SIEDLICKI (generally considered to be the rarest Chapman plates), a rare plated deluxe copy of United States Coin Company's 1913 MALCOLM N. JACKSON Collection, an 1860 Snowden, and a copy of Dickeson's AMERICAN NUMISMATIC MANUAL.

John Adams, whose second volume of the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE dealing with 20th century auction catalogues has consigned a virtually complete set of Max Mehl catalogues including a deluxe copy of the 1941 Dunham sale with photographic plates, and a virtually complete set of Stack's catalogues. Each of the catalogues is listed singly, the first time this has ever been done - and includes our substantial annotating. In honor of the release of Adams' second volume, we will be offering numerous other important early 20th century auction catalogues. Additionally there will be numerous Bluestone, Bolender, Elder, Kosoff, and J.C. Morgenthau (a particularly choice grouping) catalogues. As our earlier catalogues have already become valuable reference works for Canadian numismatic literature, Bowersiana, and 19th century auction catalogues, we are making every effort for this sale to be an important reference catalogue for the early 20th century American catalogues.

In addition to the aforementioned items, there will be a variety of choice, important, collectible numismatic literature for all tastes and budgets. We will be offering a complete set (less one middle issue) of the COPPERHEAD COURIER. For the catalogue collectors, Michael Sullivan has consigned over 50 auction catalogues, many of which he "discovered" that had previously been unlisted in Gengerke.

The list of our consignors for this sale will include John Adams, Armand Champa, Hank Spangenberg, the prominent but anonymous "Eastern Collector", Kirby Brown, Michael Sullivan, Wayne Homren, Harrington Manville, Rick Ponterio, Charles Kirtley, Henry Bergos, Bruce Burton, and other prominent collectors and numismatists who wish to remain nameless.

The Results of THE MONEY TREE's First Annual (?)

Giveaway of Numismatic Literature

Last year we announced that we would be giving free numismatic literature to any numismatic society or club. We indicated that we would give away up to 50 boxes of numismatic literature with a maximum of 2 boxes per society/club. We indicated that we would be giving away the literature during the summer. We received requests from 18 groups and although it took just a little longer than we expected, by the end of the year each of the groups had received 2 boxes each.

We decided to donate as we had accumulated a variety of worthwhile numismatic literature that for various reasons was not conducive to being auctioned, and as we felt that this was a good way to encourage the spread of numismatic literature, and as we are rapidly running out of space. Everything was sent gratis; we even absorbed the cost of the shipping.

Additionally, several others sent numismatic literature to us to be included in the giveaway. We would like to recognize these generous contributors:

1. RARCOA - Chicago, IL
2. Bowers and Merena - Wolfeboro, NH
3. Ponterio & Associates - San Diego, CA
4. Charles Kirtley - Elizabeth City, NC
5. George D. Hatie - Detroit, MI

The groups receiving the material were:

1. The Old Fort Coin Club - Fort Wayne, IN
2. Leisure World Coin Club - Seal Beach, CA
3. San Jose Coin Club - San Jose, CA
4. Paper Money Collectors of Michigan - Waterford, MI
5. Vallejo Numismatic Society - Vallejo, CA
6. Falls Cities Coin Club - Shively, KY
7. Los Angeles Coin Club - Thousand Oaks, CA
8. Greensburg Coin Club - Youngwood, PA
9. Penobscot Bay Coin Club - Warren, ME
10. Antioch Coin Club - Antioch, IL
11. National Coin Collectors Association - Murphysboro, IL
12. Brazosport Area Coin Club - Lake Jackson, TX
13. Livermore Valley Coin Club - Livermore, CA
14. Society for International Numismatics - Santa Monica, CA
15. Liberty Numismatic Society- Millbrae, CA
16. Westchester Israel Numismatic Society - New York, NY
17. California Association of Token Collectors - Los Angeles, CA
18. Oak Forest Coin Club - Oak Forest, IL

While most groups sent "Thank You's", we'd like to share some of the excerpts from them, strictly for information's sake. We'd never be so self-serving as to do it for ego gratification.

From the Leisure World Coin Club:

"Abundant thanks for your recent shipment of a great assortment of coin books and catalogs. A couple of our 'olde-timers' here in the retirement village (pop. 11,000) enjoyed evaluating foreign memorabilia left by their parents. [Previously] They just ... never really bothered to check out the history."

From the Vallejo Numismatic Society

"Recently received two cartons of free old outdated catalogs which were sent by your firm. Your firm's generous donation is most appreciated and considerate. Just on a whim, we decided to auction the books and catalogs at our January 2 [1991] meeting, and in the process sold everything plus earned our society \$91.00 in spirited bidding.

From the California Association of Token Collectors:

This is written to thank you for your generous Christmas gift. At our January meeting we auctioned off the entire group, being careful that the pieces desired especially by individuals were separately sold. WE observed that a number of books are highly desired reference works, and that a number dealt with tokens. Your thoughtfulness and trouble are appreciated.

From The Money Tree Numismatic Society - Rocky River, OH

What's with you guys? You promised to send the free books out in the summer and we didn't get anything until November. What a bunch of deadbeats. By the way, what kind of garbage did you send out? There wasn't a plated Chapman catalogue in the bunch. Please take us off your mailing list.

We plan to continue our donations, but we will probably hold off until the beginning of the year, so keep watching.

**BACK ISSUES OF
OUT ON A LIMB
and
MAIL BID SALES OF THE MONEY TREE**

The Money Tree has been doing business in numismatic literature since 1986. During that period we have produced two fixed price lists, 11 mail bid sale catalogues, 10 issues of OUT ON A LIMB (not counting this issue) which was named the "Best Commercial Publication for 1988" by the Numismatic Literary Guild, and THE INVASION OF LOUISVILLE - a photographic record of the 1988 visit of 40 numismatic bibliophiles to Armand Champa's numismatic library.

A letter poured in asking us if we could provide back issues of our publications. We figured that at least one other person might be interested so here goes. Offered below are each of our available back issues and the prices for each.

- 1 The Money Tree Numismatic Literature First Fixed Price List January 1987 Small format (the same size as OUT ON A LIMB) 20 pp. 399 lots. **\$5.00**
Our first production offered modestly priced numismatic literature. Featured were periodicals, Slack's and Bowers catalogues, and Canadian numismatic literature. Virtually all items were annotated. ALSO This contains our Second Fixed Price List.
- 2 OUT ON A LIMB Volume 1, Number 1 August 1987 12 pp Lavender CaC **\$3.50**
OOAL was the outgrowth of our having spent an evening with the Norwebs, and our desire to share our experiences with our readers. The contents include "An Evening with the Norwebs", Myron's "A Book about Books" with original doggerel, and "Thoughts on Thorburn's A GUIDE TO THE COINS OF GREAT BRITAIN."
- 3 OUT ON A LIMB Volume 1 Number 2 November 1987 15 pp Aquamarine CaC **\$2.50**
Highlights: "The Money Tree Goes to Mecca", our first trip to Armand and Kay Champa's; "A.N.A. Over Easy with Grits", Myron's 1987 A.N.A. diary; "The Compleat History of The Money Tree's Book Branch 1986-1987"; Myron on the "Beluga Siege Taler of 1734"; and Phil Aftora's "Numismatic Phrase Generator."
- 4 OUT ON A LIMB Volume 2, Number 1 April 1988 18 pp Yellow CaC **\$2.50**
Highlights include "A Golden Story" an account of the 1934 gold hoard find in Baltimore (later reprinted in Bowers and Merena RARE COIN REVIEW); "A Few Reflections on Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors

Magazine"; "The Money Tree Announces Its New Grading Service"; and Al Buonaguro's "The Perils of a Bibliomaniac or How I learned to Deal with The Money Tree without Going Crazy".

5. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 2, Number 2. July 1988. A N.A. Issue. 19 pp. Gray CaC. **\$3.50**
Highlights: "The Ten Most Significant American Numismatic Works"; "The Ten Most Significant American Numismatic Auction sales"; "Building a Working American Numismatic Reference Library"; "The Money Tree Buys A Numismatic Library"; "On Reassessing the Use of the Sheldon Scale".
6. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 2, Number 3. September 1988. 24 pp. Beige CaC. **\$3.50**
"OUT ON A LIMB Named Best Commercial Publication for 1988 by the Numismatic Literary Guild"; "ANA Diary 1988"; "The Invasion of Louisville" - the historic bash put on by Armand Champa; "Biblio-Lexicon"; "The Most Important American Sales of Numismatic Literature since 1945".
7. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 3, Number 1 May 1989 20 pp Light Green CaC. *Copies are not available for sale individually*
"A Survey of Canadian Numismatic Literature as Represented by the Collection of Remy Bourne"; "The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal, An Underappreciated Classic"; "Mail Bid Sale 5 Revisited"; "The Money Tree Investment Company". Because of the popularity of this issue we have sold out of all available individual copies. The few copies we have in stock are included in complete sets of **OUT ON A LIMB** offered below in Item 12.
8. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 3, Number 2. August 1989 A N.A. Convention Issue. 8 pp Chartreuse CaC. **\$2.00**
This was a promotional issue distributed at the A.N.A. containing little of substance. The only "article" of interest is "Bibliomania 1905" the fascinating foreword to G.C. Adams' 16th auction sale held January 1905. As this was only a promotional item, few were mailed. Apparently few were been saved.
9. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 3, Number 3 October 1989 21 pp. Red CaC. **\$2.50**
"A.N.A. Diary 1989" including an historic visit to the Carnegie Museum Library; a post-mortem of Mail Bid Sale 6 featuring the Remy Bourne Library of Canadian numismatic literature; The Money Tree opens its encapsulating service "Slabs R Us."
10. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 4, Number 1. June 1990. 16 pp. Puce CaC. **\$3.50**
Post mortems of Mail Bid sales 7 & 8; "Endangered Species", observations on 19th century auction catalogues; "A Chronological History of Major References About Numismatic Literature" - later reprinted in a Bowers and Merena Kingswood auction catalogue; offers for reprint of Frossard's NUMISMA and Bourne's third volume of **FIXED PRICE LISTS & PRICES PAID FOR LISTS of 1930-1939**.
11. **OUT ON A LIMB** Volume 4, Number 2. November 1990. 16 pp. Scarlet CaC. **\$2.50**
"Myron's 1990 A.N.A. Diary"; A post-mortem on Mail Bid Sale 9; observations from Remy Bourne on "Collecting United States Numismatic Auction Catalogues"; offerings of the deluxe limited hardbound edition of Gengerke's **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS**; 1990, 8th ed.; Bourne's fourth volume of **FIXED PRICE LISTS & PRICES PAID FOR LISTS of 1940-1949**; and Bourne's **AMERICAN NUMISMATIC PERIODICALS 1860-1960**; also included is a guest column by Wayne Homren.
12. **OUT ON A LIMB** A complete set of the first 10 issues including the sold-out May 1989 issue and the first two fixed price lists. Only FIVE complete sets are available. **\$40.00**

THE MONEY TREE'S Mail Bid Sales

Each of the sales is large format and comes with the prices realized list. From the very first, virtually every lot has been annotated. Although our sales have always featured interesting material, the execution of the catalogues did not hit their stride until mail bid sale three. The layouts of the first 3 sales are identical with the third sale being a better production. Sales 4 & 5 had identical layouts. All of the sales since sale 6 have had the same layout. Many of the sales have illustrations.

13. **MAIL BID SALE Number One.** July 11, 1987. 4to, Off-white CaC. pp. 545 lots. Prices realized list. **\$5.00**
 The sale featured Volume 1, number 1's including 87 different "number 1" or "the only" auction catalogues, and 121 first editions of numismatic books, journals, or periodicals. Also included were good numismatic books, periodicals, and Important U.S. and foreign auction catalogues.
14. **MAIL BID SALE Number Two.** [ARMAND CHAMPA, KAY CHAMPA, CHARLES WOLFE December 12, 1987 4to, Ivory CaC 68 pp 595 lots. 1 plate Prices realized list **\$5.00**
 The highlight was the offering of Volumes 7 through 20 of **THE NUMISMATIST** from the Norweb library with extensive text. The 14 volumes are illustrated. Also featured were numerous Mehl sales and volumes of Mehl's **NUMISMATIC MONTHLY**. A large number of important Glendining sales.
15. **MAIL BID SALE Number Three.** July 9, 1988. 4to, Light green CaC. 45 pp. 418 lots. 2 pls. Prices realized list. **\$5.00**
 Highlights include copy number 4 of Frossard's 1879 **MONOGRAPH OF UNITED STATES CENTS...**; The Fuld's **PATRIOTIC CIVIL WAR TOKENS** with photographic plates; 8 deluxe hardbound Steve Ivy catalogues; a nearly complete set of Lepczyk catalogues; Toynbee's 1944 **ROMAN MEDALLIONS**; *Ars Classica* sales; and numerous Bolender, Stack's, Katen, and Kelly sales.
16. **MAIL BID SALE Number Four [The CRAIG FOLKES Library].** October 31, 1988 4to, orange CaC. 56 pp. 590 lots. 4 pls. Prices realized list. **\$5.00**
 Complete set of Raymond's **STANDARD CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES COINS AND CURRENCY**; many important and scarce periodicals. Also deluxe copies of important American auction catalogues and fixed price lists including John Adams' 1794 cents; Kenneth Lee's copy of the Pearl Collection; a rare deluxe edition of NASCA's **WAYTE RAYMOND Collection**.
17. **MAIL BID SALE Number Five [JOHN ADAMS, REMY BOURNE, MICHAEL SULLIVAN, RARCOA, ROBERT MC NAMARA].** March 13, 1989 4to, red marbelled CaC. 88 pp 909 lots. 8 half page plates. Prices realized list. **\$10.00**
 A most Important sale with numerous highlights. The first lot was a bound volume of **THE NUMISMATIST** from Volume 3, number 2 through Volume 6, number 12, inclusive which brought \$4800.00. The accompanying article about the census of **THE NUMISMATIST** was later reprinted in **ASYLUM**. The next significant offering was 430 lots of 19th century auction catalogues from the John Adams library, one of the largest offerings in recent times. Rarities included a rare addenda to the 1864 Attinelli sale (\$285), an 1865 Levick sale (\$200), an 1873 Leavitt sale of the Rossiter collection (\$215), a plated Cogan 1877 William Jenks sale, a plated copy of Smith's 1883 Clement Ferguson sale (\$505), an interleaved copy of the Strobbridge Furman, Carnes sale (\$350), and a plated copy of the same sale (\$485).
 Also offered was the important REMY BOURNE Collection of foreign numismatic periodicals with important early runs of the **NUMISMATIC CHRONICLE**, complete **NUMIZMATIKAI KOZLONY**, and important and rare German numismatic periodicals. Mc Namara's classical literature included 11 *Ars Classica* sales with the 1920 Pozzi sale, a signed copy of Locke's 1692 treatise on money, Nanteuil's 1925 **COLLECTION DE MONNAIES GRECQUES**, Ravel's 1947 **COLLECTION OF TARENTINE COINS FORMED BY M.P. VLASTO**. This is the first of our sales offering important and significant 19th century auction catalogues. This was a most important sale, and has since become an important reference catalogue. Relatively few copies of this sale are available.
18. **MAIL BID SALE Number Six.** July 31, 1989 4to, blue CaC. 52 pp. 581 lots. 8 half page plates Prices realized list. **\$10.00**
 Canadian Numismatic Literature from the collection of Remy Bourne" - the largest and most important offering ever in this country including the first complete set of **THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL** to be auctioned in the United States (\$3200.00). Also offered were a plated of the Chapmans' 1882 Bushnell sale, a plated copy of Elder's 1917 Miller sale of large cents (\$1000).
 This sale began our offering of rare Bowers material: the discovery piece of The Bowers Company **CATALOG OF RARE UNITED STATES COINS** (\$625.00); the limited library edition of **EMPIRE TOPICS** inscribed to the Norwebs (\$215.00). Other important offerings included a copy of the 1910 **A.N.A. YEARBOOK** (\$525.00), a letter from Howard Newcomb (\$125.00), important references about ancient coins with a 1964 copy of Kraay and Hirmer's **ANCIENT GREEK COINS** (\$425.00). Also offered were numerous scarce early 20th

century auction catalogues. Relatively few copies of this sale are available.

19. **MAIL BID SALE Number Seven. The GEORGE P. HATIE Numismatic Library (Also the CARLING GRESHAM Numismatic Library of Hispanic and Hispanic-American Reference Books: Important Selections from the Holdings of HANK SPANGENBERGER: a Special Offering Formerly from the Library of VIRGIL HANCOCK).** November 6, 1989 4to, magenta CaC. 72 pp. 830 lots. 8 half page plates. Prices realized list. *\$10.00*

The Hatie collection includes important references in all numismatic areas highlighted by some important antiquarian works, a nearly complete set of auction catalogues since 1910 from Santamaria of Rome, numerous periodicals and journals, a beautiful copy of the 1878 Loubat (\$360.00), a 1964 copy of Kraay and Hirmer's ANCIENT GREEK COINS (\$505.00). GRESHAM's library featured 150 lots of important Hispanic references with 4 rare original works by Jose Toribio Medina, and Herraras 1914 EL DURO, (\$310.00).

Spangenberg's consignment featured rare and important Bowers material and A.N.A. membership lists. Highlights included 2 copies of Jim Ruddy's 1956 Triple Cities Coin Exchange auction catalogue (\$375.00 & \$320.00), the first (of only two) complete, original set of the EMPIRE INVESTORS REPORT ever offered (\$425.00), a copy of Bowers' Endwell-Union ILLUSTRATED PREMIUM GUIDE AND CATALOGUE OF RARE UNITED STATES COINS (400.00), a copy of Bowers' 1973 HOW TO START A COIN COLLECTION, the first copy ever offered at auction (\$375.00). The A.N.A. material included a 1916 A.N.A. Convention Program (\$675.00), the 1913 A.N.A. Membership List (\$310.00), the 1917 A.N.A. Membership List (\$300.00). Other important items were the first 87 issues of PENNY-WISE, A deluxe leather bound edition of Lee's 1979 CALIFORNIA GOLD DOLLARS ... (\$200.00), one of the largest offerings ever of William Hesslein auction catalogues, a plated copy of Frossard's 37th sale (\$300.00), the first copy to be offered at auction of Bronson's 1865 A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF CONNECTICUT CURRENCY (\$410.00). Relatively few copies of this sale are available.

20. **MAIL BID SALE Number Eight [JESS PATRICK, JOHN ADAMS, HANK SPANGENBERGER, DAVID SCHENKMAN, REMY BOURNE, and others].** February 26, 1990. 4to, yellow CaC. 60 pp 628 lots. Prices realized list. *\$10.00*

Highlights include a rare plated copy of Elder's 1929 LAWRENCE Sale, a rare plated 1873 Leavitt sale, Bowers & Ruddy price list of the LENOX LOHR pattern collection. The Adams' offerings included Appleton's 1870 A SELECTION OF COINS AND MEDALS RELATING TO AMERICA, a deluxe special edition of JOHN ADAMS Collection of 1794 Cents, an interleaved copy of Johnson's 1882 work on Bolen's medals, a rare plate edition of the Chapmans' 1880 Bispham sale.

Spangenberg's offerings included a copy of Appleton's 1873 DESCRIPTIONS OF THE MEDALS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, a 1910 A.N.A. YEARBOOK. Schenkman's consignment included volumes 3 & 4 of the A.J.N. with all 3 photographic plates, early volumes of THE BANKERS MAGAZINE with 2 anti-photographic plates engraved by Rawdon. Also offered were rare early 20th century auction catalogues of Charles Fisher (the sale of 9/45 brought \$225.00), Ben Green, William Hesslein, and J.C. Morgenthau.

21. **MAIL BID SALE Number Nine [JOHN ADAMS, WAYNE HOMREN, DAVID LANGE, P. SCOTT RUBIN, HANK SPANGENBERGER, MICHAEL SULLIVAN].** July 30, 1990. 4to, brown CaC. 68 pp. 647 lots. 4 half page plates. Prices realized list. *\$10.00*

Offerings included a plated copy of the Chapmans' 1921 JENKS Sale. Scott Rubin's consignment featured the first offering ever of a complete set of THE RUDDY REVIEW (\$525.00), the extremely rare Hathaway and Bowers CHOICE AND RARE U.S. Coins, Number 1 (\$237.00), a previously unknown copy of a Bowers and Ruddy Empire Coin Company Buying Guide (\$177.00), the first bulletin produced by Bowers (\$485.00). A rare grouping of PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA brought (\$355.00). Volume 1 of the A.J.N. brought \$260.00. Also offered were 200 lots of 19th century auction catalogues from the Adams holdings. This is the second of our sales offering important and significant 19th century auction catalogues.

22. **MAIL BID SALE Number Ten. The CLEVELAND Sale. [AVIS and REMY BOURNE, MARK AUERBACH, JEFF ROCK, WAYNE HOMREN, HEDLEY BETTS].** November 5, 1990. 4to, black and white CaC. 111 pp. 888 lots. 12 half page plates. Prices realized list. *\$10.00*

Highlights include 386 lots of 19th century auction catalogues from Avis and Remy Bourne, many from the

J.C. Hills library, one of the largest, and most important offerings ever of early sales. Featured were a copy of Smith's 1886 **DR. EDWARD MARIS Collection**, many addendas, pre-1865 sales, important Cogan, Frossard, Stobridge, and Woodward sales. The Auèrbach consignment featured important ancient and world references with a rare offering of **PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** with the J.D. Collection of Washingtonia. Many U.S. mint reports from 1872 onward were offered. Other auction catalogues from a Prominent Eastern Collector included many important and scarce early 20th century sales. Also included are Frank Katen's 1989 A.N.A. Numismatic Theatre speech, "The 'Wyllie Hoard' of 19th Century American Auction Catalogues"; and also an introduction by Remy Bourne, "Collecting 19th Century Numismatic Auction Catalogues". Also offered was much important Bowers material. This is the third of our sales offering important and significant 19th century auction catalogues. Relatively few copies of this sale are available.

23. **MAIL BID SALE Number Eleven. The DR. KARL F. LUTOMSKI Numismatic Library.** [JOHN ADAMS, KIRBY BROWN, HANK SPANGENBERGER, RICK PONTERIO, CHARLES KIRTLEY, DAN IIYLAN, DAVID COHEN] March 11, 1991. 4to, green CaC. 95 pp. 988 lots. Prices realized list. **\$10.00**

Dr. Lutomski's library included rare and important Canadian numismatic literature such as Dr. Anthon's annotated copy of the 1860 Sandham classic, "COINS, MEDALS, AND TOKENS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA". U.S. offerings included a 1947 Clapp and Newcomb on the **UNITED STATES CENTS OF 1795, 1796, 1797, AND 1800**. Snowden's 1860 **DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS IN THE CABINET COLLECTION...**, and the rare 3 volume set of the 1787-1788 **COUNTESSE DE BENTINCK COLLECTION**. Highlights include 260 lots of 19th century auction catalogues from John Adams and Kirby Brown, and a Prominent Eastern Collector.

Also offered was a rare plated copy of the 1886 Chapmans' **DOHRMAN** sale, a deluxe copy of the Bluestone's **GRINNELL** Collection, a rare plated copy of Frossard's 1887 **EDWARDS-HAWLEY** Sale. Other modern auction sales were featured with many special or deluxe editions. The other consignments featured important references on U.S. coins, medals, tokens, and paper money. This is the fourth of our sales offering important and significant 19th century auction catalogues.

24. **All 11 of THE MONEY TREE'S Mail Bid Sales. \$75.00**

25. **THE INVASION OF LOUISVILLE, A Serendipitous Biblio-Currence on July 23, 1988.** 4to, gold cover sheet. 22 pages on rectos of which 17 are plates containing 62 captioned photographs. **\$10.00**

During the 1988 A.N.A. Convention in Cincinnati, Armand Champa invited over 40 of his closest biblio-friends to visit his glorious numismatic library in Louisville, Kentucky. The cast of "characters" include the famous, the infamous, and the blasphemous. This project is the product of Myron Xenos photographic record of the historic excursion. Naturally, each of the photographs is accompanied by a witty (or half-thereof) caption. Only 50 copies were produced. Fewer than 20 remain.

26. **All of Our Previous Publications - 2 fixed price lists, 11 mail bid sale catalogues, the first 10 issues of OUT ON A LIMB and THE INVASION OF LOUISVILLE \$100.00**

27. **2 fixed price lists, 11 mail bid sale catalogues, 9 issues of OUT ON A LIMB (except for the May 1989 issue), and THE INVASION OF LOUISVILLE \$90.00**

The 1990 P.A.N. Show

[Editor's note: Judging from the time references, one might discern that this was written late in 1990 for the expected January 1991 issue of OOAL which was produced with Congress's speed. Anyway, better Nate than lever as the old punchline goes.]

Several months ago, (July 1990) I received an invitation from Wayne Homren, President of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society (WPNS) and now also the President of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN), to hold a regional gathering of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS) in my capacity of President of the NBS at the 1990 PAN show in Pittsburgh which would be held October 5-7 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. John Burns, the VP of WPNS and the Director of the Numismatic Theaters for the past two ANA Conventions, also asked if I would deliver a presentation about numismatic literature. We decided on the topic, "How to Build a Numismatic Library" (First, steal two books...). In addition to Wayne and John both being gentlemen of distinction and dedicated bibliophiles, both had made a strong impression upon me with their hard work in making the 1989 ANA convention in Pittsburgh such a success. Although some have said that the future of numismatics is baseball cards, it is the relatively young (translation: younger than me) numismatists such as Wayne and John who will carry the numismatic torch forward. (Hmm, there is something chilling about the phrase "numismatic torch" and "bibliomania" being used in the same thought.)

Consequently, despite the show being held in the hometown of the rival Steelers (c'mon, a quarterback named "Bubby"; gimme a break!), Myron and I were quite enthusiastic about going. Pittsburgh is a mere two and a half hours drive (for normal people, but more about that later) from my residence, so we felt that it would be a pleasant opportunity to return to site of the marvelous 1989 ANA convention where we had such a good time. Because of various prior obligations (our regular paying jobs and minor stuff like that), we decided to leave late Friday afternoon.

Our plan was to arrive at the show at about 7:00 PM, where we would meet Wayne right as the show closed. Then we would go to dinner with Wayne, who would subsequently show us the way to our motel. (Are Holiday Inns still classified as motels or have they some new hi-tech euphemism like "Travel Respite Facilities" or "McMotel"?), and subsequently take us to his home to see his numismatic library, a cherished, mandatory ritual for numismatic bibliophiles.

Those of you who have not been longtime readers of OUT ON A LIMB are not aware that Myron and I, either individually or together, have basal state senses of directions. Had we sailed with Columbus, we would have sailed off the edge of the world. We don't just miss exits; we miss states. Really! Several years ago upon returning to Ohio from seeing Armand and Kay Champa in Louisville, Kentucky (just go due north and stop when you hit Lake Erie), we ended up in Indiana. As Yogi Berra once reputedly said, "We may be lost, but we're sure making good time". On our way to the 1989 ANA convention in Pittsburgh (Just go east to route 79, and go south until you see the signs that direct you to Pittsburgh.), we ended up in West Virginia. Consequently, Myron's wife Daryl agreed to come along and navigate - truly a wise decision as you will here about later.

Following the Saturday presentation which would start at 2:30 PM (and which we figured would end around 4:30 PM), we planned to leave for home with a 7:30ish PM E.T.A. (Estimated Time of Arrival, not Euclid Teachers Association). Anyway that was the plan.

Friday, October 5.

We were pleasantly surprised by the beautiful weather for travel as Cleveland has had rain 18 of the previous 20 weekends. Or course, the weather during the usual workweek has been quite

precipitation free. Myron and Daryl picked me up right on schedule which was also unexpected as the freeways from Rocky River to Euclid have more orange construction barrels than asphalt.

The variety of colors of the autumn leaves on the vast number of trees in our area is truly stunning, making the drive most enjoyable. I genuinely pity those of you who live in areas where you do not get to see the arboreal effects of the seasonal changes. Also, because of Pittsburgh's being located in a valley, the view one gets of the downtown area and its skyline coming in by freeway is also indescribably beautiful. It almost makes one willing to forgive the Steelers' having annihilated the Browns at Three Rivers Stadium throughout the seventies and mid-eighties. But enough of sensitivity and aesthetics.

With Daryl doing the navigating, we pulled into the parking lot beside the convention center at 6:50 PM giving us ten minutes to cross the street, enter the center (rather poetic, wot?), and take several succeeding narrow up-escalators. Right on schedule Wayne appeared, with the usual manic appearance of someone who has spent the day coordinating and ombudsmanning. Wayne suggested a restaurant in a trendy, former factory district area. With Wayne leading the way crosstown, and Myron and Daryl following, we were soon ensconced in a cute little restaurant that seemed to be lifted right out of a Yuppified Budweiser commercial. Our regular readers are accustomed to our chronicles including significant quantities of culinary narrative. However, this past year has found me experiencing some particularly nasty digestive disorders, so while the others were able to enjoy worthy fare, I feasted on two glasses of ginger ale with no ice.

Wayne told us that Mike Sullivan, an outstanding young Cincinnati numismatist and a good friend, was also coming in for the show. Unfortunately, and with regrets all around, we never able to make connections. (Hmm, Wayne from Pittsburgh, Mike from Cincinnati - why are all the good guys from cities that regularly beat snot out of the Browns? Aren't there any good young numismatists in Tampa Bay or Dallas?)

Dinner was over by 9:30. Wayne guided us to the motel. By 10:00 we were checked in by very efficient, knowledgeable desk clerks - always noteworthy because of their being an endangered specie. The only disappointment was that Daryl likes to hang around a swimming pool while Myron is at a show, and the pool had been drained. (Isn't that absurd? Draining an outdoor pool in Pittsburgh in mid-October.) However, soon Wayne lead us to his home and his library.

We really enjoy seeing other numismatic libraries as invariably there are a bunch of things that we have never previously seen or in many cases heard of. For example, Wayne had a modest grouping of books in his living room which he was willing to sell or, if we deemed it worthwhile, consigned to auction. We learned long ago to check out everything carefully; in our sales, we have had some mighty offbeat stuff bring some astonishing prices. Most of the material was interesting, but quite common. However, I did notice something in black quarter leather with a green cloth binding. It was something with which I had previously been unfamiliar - a presentation copy of Hans Schulman's 1946 fixed price list with the recipient's name in gilt on the cover, and with an extensive inscription inside from Hans to the recipient. Deluxe and presentation copies are always sought after. To find out the rarity of various items, I will call several of our more knowledgeable and advanced collectors to find out if any of them are familiar with or have any information about the item. None of them had a copy. None of them had even heard of it. While this discovery is not of earth shattering importance, any "discovery" item is always a special thrill. So looking ahead, this will be offered in our next mail bid sale.

Also, Wayne showed us the bound original minutes from the WPNS from its inception in 1878 to date, and many other early WPNS items. Original Numismatica Americana is one of my great joys. I only wish that we had more time to spend. By now it was 11:00 and this buckaroo was starting to poop out. However, we still had to see his actual library. Amazing! Everything was shelved and in order. What is he, a Communist? How can you have a library without having stuff stacked on the floor, packed in boxes, or just generally cluttered all around? Why you could actually find things!

What a brilliant concept, an organized library! Clearly this must be a Pittsburgh phenomenon. Why we in Cleveland would NEVER consider such a radical idea. Organized, indeed!

Anyway, we spent several more hours in bibliophilic nirvana - checking out special editions and previously unseen books, catalogues, journals, and ephemera. By 1:00 AM, I was a complete basket case - exhausted and exhilarated. However, tomorrow was going to be a busy day. So we headed motelward to sleep.

Saturday morning - October 6

After a good and comfortable night's sleep and a light breakfast, we headed toward the convention center on a beautiful fall day. We arrived at the show around 10:00 AM. The only real responsibility we had was the NBS gathering at 2:00. Daryl moved into a lounge area to grade papers while Myron and I headed into the bourse room.

Neither of us was looking for anything in particular, but if we found something cute Before I start looking seriously, I normally make one circuit of the bourse floor just to see who has tables and to renew acquaintances. Julian Leidman was set up right by the entrance so we stopped and renewed acquaintances. Julian, a longtime fixture in numismatics always has neat stuff - patterns, early and rare type coins in all metals. Moving right along, most of the dealers featured what has become typical for most of them - slabbed Morgans, Walkers, and commems, along with relatively pedestrian offerings. Frankly, few of them seemed to be doing much business at all, perhaps because so many of them seemed to be generic dealers dealing in generic coins. A fair number of dealers were featuring baseball (and other sports) cards. Rod

Burruss, a Cincinnati EAC member, was set up with early coppers. I had corresponded with Rod when I joined the EAC, but this was the first time that I had gotten to spend any time with him. Like most dealers who specialize in coppers, Rod was quite outgoing and eager to share information and to let you see his coins up-close-and-personal, even if you weren't going to buy. We talked a bit about numismatic literature, especially literature about early coppers.

Myron and I decided to look for low-priced PCGS or NGC slabbed dollars. With the market in doldrums, the price of Morgans had fallen precipitously to where one could purchase nice dollars for a pittance or 10% back of a pittance.

As I surveyed the floor, I again realized how happy and relieved I am that I don't set up at coin shows and conventions anymore. For several years, I had set up regularly at major shows from St. Louis eastward to Washington D.C. Although during the boom of the late 1970s and early 1980 was thrilling. Even an idiot could make money then, and I did. However, I don't know if most collectors realize how exhausting and debilitating the show circuit can be. For most of the larger shows, where one has to go to be successful, there is the constant travel hassle; the long show hours doing nothing for proper nutrition, exercise, or rest; and for me the worst - Sunday's without much business knowing that one is facing a long drive home. Believe I am not complaining about costs, customers, the work, or state of the market. However, after a period of several years I developed a rather serious digestive problem which was aggravated by the conditions which I mentioned above. Essentially it forced me to stop traveling "the show circuit". Consequently when I look at the people who are always out there, setting up year after year - Julian Leidman, Don Apte, Don DeVore, Leon Hendrickson (to name only a few) - and I marvel at their endurance. Regardless, I do enjoy the freedom of being able to leave a show when I have concluded my business.

Anyway, I stopped at the table of a dealer who shall remain nameless, but one whom I have known for a long time. He was complaining about the state of the coin market and how he had never seen things so bad, and how the customers were idiots - his usual depressing ramblings. During the boom of the late '70s, he continually complained about how much had to pay in income tax - your usual chronic malcontent. Have you noticed that dealers who serve collectors, dealers who "deal"

tend to do well even in slow market periods? There really are a whole bunch of dealers who are doing rather well currently.

Of special note was a group of tables set up at the end of the room manned by employees of Shearson Lehmann brothers: videotaped presentation, a big color display, PCGS slabbed 1964 proof dimes for giveaways, and the most amazing numismatic prospectus I have ever seen - multicolored, meticulously prepared, deluxe, glossy, expensive. This was a major production. The Wall Street boys are still trying to raise great quantities of money for "investing" in numismatics. Yep, \$50,000 for two proof Indian Head cents (yep, that's a sure fire investment.) Sometime we'll have to talk about "investing".

Anyway, back to cheery things. Myron and I looking for cheap slabbed Morgan dollars. We stopped at the table of Harry Jones, a long-time nationally-known dealer in paper money who also probably has the largest coin operation in Greater Cleveland. Harry is also a longtime friend of Myron's. Harry had just purchased a group of MS-60 to MS-63 slabbed dollars. Myron and I went through the grouping and found a number of attractive specimens.

For example, I purchased a slabbed PCGS MS-61 1922-S Peace Dollar for \$17.00. My object is not to become a millionaire from this coin, but just ponder what this purchase signified. The coin cost someone \$30.00 to slab; it was bid in unc at \$23.00. In essence, I got a bright, nicely struck unc Peace dollar, which appears to be an undergraded MS-63, one which is slightly less common for \$6.00 back of bid, without having to pay a slabbing fee. What's my risk?

We grabbed a bit of lunch at the snack bar where we were able to spend some time with Julian Leidman, a truly professional numismatist and a genuine mensch. Julian had a bone to pick with me. It seems that whenever I wrote an account of a previous auction in OOAL, Julian misunderstood my meaning. For example, if a book which we had estimated at \$20.00 was successfully bid for at \$25.00, I would state that the book sold for \$25.00 over the estimate of \$20.00. My intent was to indicate that the book sold for \$25.00 and that the final price exceeded our estimate. Julian's interpretation was that the book sold for \$45.00 - the original estimated price of \$20.00 + \$25.00 "over the estimate." We went round-and-round about the matter and I offered to bring the matter to the attention of you our loyal readers for your opinion.

QUESTION: Whose interpretation do you prefer, Julian's or mine?

All of our loyal, faithful readers who respond to this question will receive a **FREE** copy of the next issue of **OUT ON A LIMB**. On the other hand, those who do not respond will instead receive the next copy at no charge. Our operators are waiting.

Saturday afternoon - October 6

Finally, it was time to speak to the gathering of the **NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY**. My topic was "How to Build a Numismatic Library". I was rather surprised that despite our not speaking about numismatic investments, the audience nearly filled the meeting room - probably 45 people. One of those in the audience was the venerable Frank J. Katzen. Frank (and his son, Frank junior) had driven in from Silver Springs, Maryland specifically to hear my talk. Not only was I overwhelmed by this, but as I knew what I was going to say I hoped Mr. Katzen had some other business at the show so that his time would not be totally wasted.

Myron and I had brought 3 boxes of numismatic literature to give away to the meeting attendees. We got the idea from Armand Champa who has several times (1990 Pittsburgh ANA, for example) donated a significant quantity of quality numismatic literature to attendees at various NBS meetings. Included in our donations were some Max Mehl catalogues, some Bowers and Ruddy/Merena sales, some ANA catalogues from the sixties and seventies; copies of books about various aspects of numismatics: tokens, medals, paper money, foreign coinage, etc. We spread the

books out on a table and rather than have a drawing we inviting the guests to take whatever they wanted. Believe it or not most of the people initially were reluctant to take anything; fortunately their reserve soon ended and we were able to send some pretty good stuff to new homes

Before we began, we did the requisite: have everyone stand up, recite his (no "hers") name, and briefly explain what you collect or what is your specialized interest numismatic literature or what other meeting that you expected this to be and just got caught in the wrong room of?

Pertaining to the speech, I broke the topic down into two parts. What to buy? Who to buy from? Initially, I proffered Mark Auerbach's revisionist advice which was an adaptation of Aaron Feldman's famous credo: "Borrow the book before you buy the book before you buy the coin." I then gave various recommendations for useful and required references for the various collecting areas, along with recommendations for how much to spend for each work, and whether the newest editions were required or if earlier, cheaper editions were acceptable or in some cases superior.

Subsequently, I discussed the various dealers in numismatic literature, explained their specialties, and covered when one should buy at public auction, mail-bid sale, retail mail order, or wherever. In discussing the dealers, I emphasized that one of the things that genuinely pleases Myron and me so much about dealing in numismatic literature is that virtually all of our colleagues are thoroughly decent, professional, honest, affable, fine people - a point that cannot always be made about one's colleagues elsewhere.

Several people brought some items for show-and-tell, which seems to have become a tradition at NBS gatherings. Without a doubt the best was brought by Robert Zavos. However, an explanation of the background of the item is necessary. In an auction conducted by George Kolbe, he offered a book by Kamal Ahwash, **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEATED LIBERTY HALF DIMES**. Unfortunately, despite the desirability of such a book, Brother Kolbe made a typographical error - something with which we are all too aware. George meant to indicate **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEATED LIBERTY DIMES**. To further complicate matters several auctions later George repeated the typo. Tongue-in-cheek, Bob Zavos wrote to George indicating his great desire to obtain a copy. Always eager to please his clients, George took a copy of the Ahwash seated dime book, and with a band saw cut it in half, subsequently sending half to Bob. Thus, Bob was able to show us an unique, authentic copy of Ahwash's "half seated dime" book.

We met many new people, and were able to get a few of them to immediately join (I know that I just split an infinitive, but if the alternative is too awkward, it's OK.) the NBS, which if you are not aware costs \$15.00 for an annual membership. Should you wish to join up, just contact us for an application; one will be sent forthwith.

After the presentation, John Burns representing the PAN presented me with an engraved PAN silver medal in appreciation. We immediately sent it away to get it slabbed. It came back MS-"Who cares."

After bidding a fond farewell to the many people who treated us so graciously, we headed back Ohio-ward. Because Daryl was rather tired, and because of my confidence in getting us back to Cleveland, I navigated the trip homeward - and naturally got us lost by missing the correct exit out of Pittsburgh. Daryl awoke, resumed navigating, and although it seemed touch-and-go for awhile, because the weather was perfect, and because we really did not have any particular time schedule, the more leisurely back road return trip was really not all that much longer, and was actually quite pleasant.

An Old Friend Returns

Welcome back, Dave

We would like to welcome David Sklow back to the wonderful world of numismatic literature. Some of you may remember that David issued a few fixed price lists and conducted two mail bid sales in the early to mid 1980s. At the time, David did business in the frozen tundra of upper Michigan. For those of you who lost touch with him, he got transferred from Michigan to Guam. Apparently, someone told David that Guam was a hotbed for numismatic literature. Obviously tiring of the constant hurly-burly of the boom in numismatic literature in the South Seas, David decided to leave the stress and pressure behind to return to the pastoral setting of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

While he deals in all forms of numismatic literature, David specializes in the literature about and the publications issued by the American Numismatic Association. I genuinely enjoyed my dealings with David, one of the good guys, and am glad to welcome him back. His mailing address and phone number are:

David Sklow
1473 S.W. Bartell Ave.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953
(407) 336-5275

THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC LITERATURE SCENE - FALL 1990

By Harrington E. Manville, NLG, NBS, etc.

[Mr. Manville tells us that he visits Great Britain once or twice a year to see the London dealers, visit museums and book shops, and search our numismatic information in libraries. He is a member of more than half a dozen British numismatic societies and over the past twenty-odd years has given talks or read formal papers throughout England and in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Republic.

He says that while the primary purpose of these trips has been to gather material for articles and a multi-volume encyclopedia of British numismatics (the first volume, an annotated list of British numismatic sales from 1710 to 1984 was published by A.H. Baldwin & Sons, and Spink & Son, London, 1986), he is not averse to picking up a coin or two for one of his specialty collections of unusual British silver and to add to his library of rare early books on British numismatics, or to fill in gaps in the long series of British auction catalogues.

Inspired by Myron's account of his visit to the 1990 ANA Convention, Harry offered to keep a similar, and shamelessly name-dropping record of his latest trip - with an emphasis on the numismatic literature scenes in the U.K. We accepted this offer figuring that if it wasn't interesting we could always forget to publish it. However, our memories are excellent - selective and short maybe, but excellent.]

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22nd. Last year I took the British Airways overnight redeye express non-stop to London from Dulles Airport, but this time my wife had saved enough frequent flyer bonus points to provide a round-trip ticket on an American airline, although TWA does not fly directly to London from Washington. The flight was scheduled to leave National Airport at 6:44 a.m. (It took off shortly after 7 o'clock - not too bad!) and to change planes at JFK before heading on to Heathrow

I don't know about you, but I find it almost impossible to find enough time to go through Coin World, Numismatic News, and World Coin News when one or another cascades through the mail slot, it seems almost every day, and back issues I haven't been able to finish stack up until there are enforced free hours - such as all the delays attendant on air travel. This trip I brought a plastic grocery bag stuffed with old issues dating back as long as eight months. Noisily tearing out pages for future reference and discarding the remains in trashcans along the way, the last of some thirty newspapers was finished just as the checked luggage began appearing on the pick-up carousel at Heathrow.

The Picadilly Line on the London underground goes directly from Heathrow to Holborn, the closest stop for the British Museum. For the past fifteen or twenty years I have been staying at one or another of the many nearby small bed-and-breakfast hotels around Bloomsbury Square because the Senate Library of London University is located directly behind the British Museum; the Warburg Institute is another two blocks north, and the Archaeological Institute is a bit further on - all with useful runs of periodicals that I have been consulting. half a block from Bloomsbury Square in the other direction is Southampton Row - with a post office, a dozen restaurants (many Italian, one Indian, one featuring beefburgers and chips), a small grocery and wineshop, and other tourist amenities (except a laundromat, although there is a cleaners) within a stroll of a hundred yards. It is easy to settle in for a week or two.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd. Walked to A.H. Baldwin & Son off the Strand down near the Thames. Edward Baldwin handles the book end of the 19th century family firm, but he had not purchased any large libraries since I went through their shelves and file cabinets of numismatic catalogues a year ago. I had brought over a copy of The Money Tree's 10th Mail Bid Sale to leave with him and offered to telephone his bids to Ken or Myron on my return. Later he thanked me but said that the publications were almost all American and that most of his clients are seeking the rare books on European or ancient coinages.

Baldwin's has a long run of The Gentleman's Magazine (published 1737-1907) and I was allowed to use the lower workroom ("the coal hole") to search for numismatic material in an annual issue missing from the Library of Congress stacks - where I have been gathering material for the next volume in the British encyclopedia series. "Robby" Robertson, my colleague on the first volume, stuck his head in to say "hello" and then went on with his work of cataloguing the extensive library that Baldwin's has been building for a century. When I finally surfaced back to daylight, Dick Margolis was in the reception area and we discussed the possibility of tracking down a collection of Soho Mint patterns that surfaced briefly a decade or so ago but then disappeared and has not been heard of since.

On to Spink & Son's, over in St. James's district, where I really lucked out in the Book Department. The Director, Douglas Saville, was at lunch but I utilized his absence to look through all the sale catalogues on the shelves - finding only one from 1939 that I needed. When Douglas returned, he said he had my wants list of British auction catalogues on file but had not had time to compare it against a collection which had arrived just two days before and had been put aside in anticipation of my visit. Talk about mother lodes! - pristine Glendining with printed prices realized, as early as 1913 and through the 1920s. Those from the mid-30s were marked up pre-sale catalogues, formerly in Seaby's library, partially hand-priced with many invoices or notes loosely inserted.

I did not wish to be too greedy and only put aside sixty catalogues that I do not have already. Later I could not help thinking of the superlative condition of the earlier issues and that perhaps I should have selected more, even though I already had somewhat worn copies, but by the time I could go back to Spink's the next week, every thing was gone - chiefly to a collector who was delighted to have Seaby's annotated copies. There is a lesson here somewhere.

Sorting through the catalogue piles and putting the remainder in chronological order for Douglas

took until 5.30 and I had to rush off on the underground to drop my briefcase back at the hotel and then dash up to the Warburg Institute by 6.00 for the monthly meeting of the British Numismatic Society

Graham Dyer of the Royal Mint had come in from Wales and I left him with an unusual early 19th century English halfpenny that a U.S. dealer had given me to take over for an official opinion from the Mint. Marion Archibald of the British Museum was there also and I showed her some early English die varieties that another U.S. dealer had asked me to take over from possible sale. However, she said that these days she was too busy with hoard material to do much with such odds and ends and that Barrie Cook had taken over those duties. (She later introduced us when I could visit the Museum.)

After the B.N.S. meeting, it is customary for a couple of dozen members to meet at an Italian restaurant a few blocks away at Tottenham Court Road where we have a chance to talk with the speaker (this evening Professor Loyn, whose topics had been on the importance of later Anglo-Saxon and Norman numismatics to the historian) and to exchange numismatic news. I try to plan any autumn trips to include one of these meetings and dinners in order to get an annual "fix" of numismatic gossip.

At the dinner I offered to lend one researcher the only known copies of the catalogues of an obscure mid-19th century provincial auctioneer, which offered a few strays from the exceedingly important Cuerdale Hoard, and to provide another collector with the pedigrees of the Commonwealth crowns in my collection to help bring his census of that material up-to-date.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24th. A fateful day! It began peacefully enough; the underground from Holborn to Marble Arch, through the tunnels under Oxford Street and the Arch, out at the bus (pardon, coach) stops in Hyde Park. The weather was mild ("October's bright blue weather" in London although pouring rain in Oxford) and I saw only one homeless person sleeping on his cardboard bed.

Coaches from Victoria Station to points up in the North regularly stop in Hyde Park and in about ten minutes one marked Oxford came along. The day-return fare originating in London is £5.50 but a pound less when bought in Oxford - presumably on the theory that rich Londoners and tourists can afford more than poor individuals and university college students. The sixty-mile ride is pleasant on the M-40, past many fields of grazing sheep in the Buckinghamshire countryside.

In spite of, or perhaps partly because of, the university, Oxford still is a smallish town by U.S. standards. Even with the bedroom suburbs (Iffley, Cowley, Summertown, Botley, etc.) which are just extensions of Oxford itself, one can walk from one end to the other in less than an hour - although apparently most students use bicycles.

I had an appointment at the Photo Department of the University's Ashmolean Museum and chief photographer Michael Dudley, who has provided pictures of my collections for the past two decades, promised to have the new batch of coins ready for retrieval by three that afternoon. He would send on the finished prints and slides c/o Spink's Book Department the next week - thus saving me a return trip just to pick them up.

In the three free hours I could turn my attention to books. No one ever should visit Oxford without spending some time at Blackwell's on Bond Street. The Antiquarian and Secondhand Department is located on the top floor. However, a browse through the history and art/architecture sections there turned up nothing I was seeking - specifically back issues of archaeological journals that have numismatic articles. The few Sotheby catalogues on the shelves were in non-numismatic fields and I saw only one out-of-print book on Greek coinage.

My reader's card to the University's Bodleian Library, obtained some years ago, allowed several more entries, and there still are seven - the guard not having stamped it when I went in perhaps assuming that I was a visiting professor with unlimited access. Just as well not to waste an entry, because the directory that was "not on shelf" a year ago turned out to be for London and Middlesex only and I was looking for information on 19th century Scotland.

Next door to the Ashmolean is Oxford's Archaeological Institute and before picking up the coins, I looked in to inquire about their library rules. Not surprisingly, usage is normally restricted to the university and I was given the name of a person in the Ashmolean Library who would consider a petition for occasional scholarly visits. In a year or so, when the resources of the Library of Congress and Dumbarton Oaks have been exhausted, I shall write for a temporary pass and, if approved, spend a week or two there. There is a B&B (Bread 'n Breakfast) just around the corner on St. John's Street where I usually stay when visiting Oxford overnight. At £12 a day with a large English breakfast cooked to order and served in your room it costs half the best rate available in London. Why one could almost afford to commute.

The return trip was uneventful and after a Chinese dinner I thought I would walk past London University's Archaeological Institute to find out when their library opened so that I could be waiting on the doorstep in the morning and not wasting any time.

I never made it, either that evening or for the next four days because while I was crossing the street at the corner only fifty feet from the entrance, a young man on a motorcycle and I re-discovered the law of physics which says that two objects cannot occupy the same place at the same time.

Britain, of course, has a national health plan and an ambulance took me to the nearest hospital for x-rays (four broken ribs and a finger, two black eyes, many bruises), patching up, and shipping back to the hotel in a taxi - all without opening up my wallet or showing medical insurance or even identification. Banged up? They treat you without fuss or payment.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th-28th. Spent most of the time in bed although it was quite painful to turn on either side and I had to steel myself to get up for meals. Any of you who have had rib problems will know how difficult just sitting up can be. Part of this enforced leisure would have been spent in visiting the half dozen secondhand bookshops within a four block radius of Bloomsbury Square - such as the palindromic Skoob Books - where there were often items on previous visits.

Monday, October 29th. Gingerly made my way up to the Archaeological Institute to put in several hours looking into 19th century periodicals for numismatic material. Unfortunately the broken finger made writing difficult and returning home it has been hard to decipher some of the resulting chicken scratches.

In the evening, Hugh Pagan, immediate past president of the British Numismatic Society, had extended an invitation to dine at the Garrick Club. Its building of St. Martin's Lane dates from the 1830s and has a fine collection of theatre paintings. Named after David Garrick, of course, the Club draws its membership almost exclusively from theatre people, lawyers, and booksellers - Hugh fitting into the latter category. There are no women members (although female guests may be invited for lunch or dinner) and the long center table is reserved for males only. The membership waiting list is approximately seven years and members are expected not to enter names of sons or nephews until after the candidate reaches his majority.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30th. Work on the London tube station escalators is endemic, more so since the fatal fire at Gloucester Road Station a couple of years ago, and of those at Holborn or Green Park were not working, I did not relish a long climb - down or up. In spite of its being morning rush hour, I decide to work my way over to the St. James's area by bus and after finally locating the

correct coach stop even found a seat near the open rear entrance where I could try to peer out to try to judge which street might be nearest to Spink's. On discovering that every last one of those Glendining's catalogues had been snapped up while I was recuperating, at least there were no decisions to make on that score and time was available for a look-in at Knightsbridge Coins on Duke Street around the corner from Spink's.

Steve Fenton puts aside English mis-strikes for my annual or semi-annual visits and this time he had two that fitted into my collection and a number of non-British pieces that might be of interest to a fellow U.S. collector. (I later obtained two of them for him at the NYINC Show in December.) Then it was time to take a taxi to the Euston Street Station for the Manchester train.

At Glasgow earlier in the year, Keith Sugden, A Manchester University reader (i.e. professor, but without that title, which is much rarer in the U.K. than here), who also is Curator of the Manchester Museum coin collection, had extended an invitation to stay with him on my next visit to the Midlands. It had been twenty years since I last went to that city in a vain search for countermarked coins from the W.S. Churchill collection. The then Honorary Curator, Prof. F.C. Thompson, a man of eighty years, said he had not seen those particular coins but perhaps his "young volunteer assistant", who would be in that afternoon could help. The assistant turned out to be Dr. E.A. Johnstone, at 70 certainly younger than Prof. Thompson, but he had not seen my coins either. When we discussed this, Keith was finally able to put me straight: there were two W.S. Churchill collectors (neither one the prime minister) and I had been chasing the wrong one.

The next morning, Keith headed north to Blackburn where the local museum houses some extremely rare English coins, bequeathed by R.E. Hart many years ago but which are not well known to collectors. Back in Manchester, I had hoped to look at the numismatic holdings of the late John Rylands Library but there was not time both for that and the Manchester Museum unless I stayed until evening and I did not feel up to arriving back in London at midnight or later.

As Curator, Keith is naturally called upon to make many coin identifications and he also receives appeals by widows who haven't a clue as to the worth of or how to dispose of their late husband's holdings. At the moment, he had a long run of post-war unbound Seaby Bulletins, available for any reasonable offer and which still may be available - although they might be better sold in the U.K. because of packing and trans-Atlantic shipping costs.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1st After a follow-up x-ray of my hand at the hospital, I made my way down to King Street to see Laurence Brown. I had sent him my wants list of Christie's catalogues to see if they had any extras to spare and had brought him some early duplicate printed buyer's lists for their file of back issues. No luck on my catalogues but Laurence did provide a list of copies missing from their files and promised to add those to my own look-out list. Christie's has been at the same location for almost two centuries and Spink's has been just next door for 65 of 70 years. Mark Rasmussen in the English Coin Department was busy cataloguing coins for their December Numismatic Circular but I could view a special collection being offered in an upcoming auction later that month. There was one piece that I had been shown the previous spring when it was being catalogued for Spink's by my colleague Robertson and I left a bid of about three times the high estimate. (It turned out that this piece, a coins weight for the early 19th century Bank of England dollars, generated more interest than any other lot in the collection and it took every bit of the bid to secure it at the sale.)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd The British also celebrate Halloween. Pumpkin faces and witches were everywhere as I bussed along Oxford Street to New Bond Street and Glendining's. Managing Director Daniel Fearon had told me at the B.N.S. meeting the previous week that he had received for possible sale a countermarked dollar that was somewhat suspicious. On first examination, I agreed, but took photos to compare against my card file of all known specimens. While it is difficult to prove that any countermark is false unless either the punch turns up (this has happened) or the counterfeiter confesses (to my knowledge, this has not), I advised Daniel that for

several subtle reasons I am 90% sure that the coin is a modern concoction.

Anyway, this account is supposed to emphasize numismatic literature and at least I can report that while at Glens. I was allowed to go through a large parcel of numismatic sale catalogues that had been consigned for auction. There was only one I needed, and after I returned home the owner, Tony Dowle, very kindly sent it with his compliments - also asking for my catalogue wants list in case he can supply any other lacunae.

There was just enough time to walk two streets over and down to H.A. Seaby's new location on Davies Street to see Peter Clayton about some bound Bulletins and to order a copy of Volume II of Laurence Brown's extremely useful British Historical Medals before returning to New Bond Street and down a narrow alley to Sotheby's Coin and Medal Department. I had arranged with James Morton and Paul Wood to discuss our mutual sale catalogue needs - several of their bound volumes for the 1930s being incomplete. I had brought some duplicate printed buyer's lists they needed for their file copies and they put aside the rest in case other collectors ask for particular issues. In return, they gave me copies of several recent sale catalogues that either never arrived or were mangled in the mails. We were sent to a nearby Italian restaurant for lunch but I am a light (or non-) eater at noon and fear that soup and salad while excellent did not really do justice to Sotheby's generosity.

Time for a final visit to Spink's Book Department to arrange for a selection of recent numismatic books to be shipped out, then to Baldwin's to collect back The Money Tree catalogue from Edward B. That evening on the way to dinner, I looked in on Dillon's Bookshop near the Warburg Institute. Similar to Blackwell's, there is an Antiquarian and Second-hand Department on the top floor where in the old days I used to find the odd item of numismatic interest. Regrettably, that department was re-arranged a couple of years ago and they no longer have the alcove of tatty back issues of scholarly periodicals where one could find all sorts of interesting items for a pound or two. Nothing numismatic at all this time!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd. One-day coin shows had been announced for both Saturdays I was in England. Needless to say, attending the Great Western Fair at Paddington last week was not in the cards. I also had to pass up a meeting of the Essex Numismatic Society in Chelmsford the previous Friday, but on this, my final day in England, I felt up to looking in on the London Coin Fair at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch. This show is held three times a year and is smaller and less hectic than the annual early October COINEX (which I tend to avoid almost as much as the ANA August stockyards) although it was crowded enough.

After making one circuit of the hall to see who was where, Chris Eimer, the commemorative medal specialist, invited me to come behind his table for a sit-down discussion. he is working on ouyres of the Pingo family of die engravers and I promised to send his contemporary 18th century reference notes from British news magazines.

There was little numismatic literature in evidence although Bob Ilsey of Dolphin Coins did have a mis-struck halfcrown that I was glad to buy. I thus ended the trip with three new coins, information on others for a fellow collector, two large parcels of books and catalogues on their way by post from Spink's, and two small ones from Seaby's. In addition, some research and renewed contacts made the trip worthwhile despite developing an unexpected intimate acquaintance with one of London's road surfaces and the emergency waiting room at University Hospital.

On cannot expect to clear the fence on every swing and next September, after the International Numismatic Congress in Brussels, I'll try to make many of the same rounds. Who knows? Perhaps with even better results in the literature field. I guess the anticipation of possibly discovering unexpected gems is what makes us all bibliomaniacs.

A TRIP TO PARADISE
or
A Copper Lover's First E.A.C. Convention

By Terry Stahurski

I got into Boston Wednesday night. Immediately I ran across six well-dressed people in the hotel lobby who were discussing "die states" and "condition census". Paydirt.

Thursday was spent attending to the business I was actually in town for. I constantly checked my watch to be sure that I would through in time for the "Half Cent Happening". Fortunately my business was finished in a rather timely manner, so before the "Happening" I had time to go to the E.A.C. hospitality suite - nice spread, but I did not touch a thing. I was too busy trying to read the attendee badges. Afraid that this might be an E.A.C. faux pas, I retreated to my room with Roger Cohen's half cent book to prepare for the "happening". I ran into two of my Cleveland connection - Gene Braig and Gino Sanfillipo. Both looked loaded for bear.

Needless to say (but I'll say it anyway) the half cents were exquisite. The fact that one could actually pick up and handle those coins, let alone look at the nakedly (read: sans slab) was beyond my expectations. My sweaty palms as well as the thought of dropping an AU R-6+ coin forced me only to gawk. Some of the highlights were varieties of the 1794s such as a C-1a, C-1b, C-2a and C-2b. Also shown was an 1800 c-1 and an 1809 C-4. Plenty of condition census material. It is hard to imagine six or seven R-6 or better pieces in one place. Rumor was that some of the pieces were from the collection of the ubiquitous R. Tettenhorst - the kind of stuff you'd sell your mother for.

Friday couldn't arrive soon enough for me. The bourse was crowded - between 40 and 50 copper dealers. I hesitate to use the word "dealer" here. EAC dealers are unlike any other coin dealer. You can actually sit down and discuss coins without being goaded into buying a slabbed 1991 MS-63.54321+ Lincoln cent or Panda silver bar. These dealers will talk seriously to you about coins and prices. They will also steer you to other dealers who may have the material you are looking for. What a refreshing change! I saw some great material offered by Jim McGuigan, Mike Ringo, Tony Terranova, Jack Beymer, Chris Victor-McCawley, Bob Miller, Lanny Reinhardt, and Steve Tanenbaum. I omitted the large cent people due to my ignorance of this series.

Without selling my soul I was able to pick up several nice counterstamped, attributable half cents, Hard Times tokens, and uncirculated Civil War tokens. While sifting through material I was constantly bumping into numismatic notables, e.g. Cindy Grellman of Civil War token fame (what a nice lady!) and Alan Weinberg of token and colonial coinage fame.

True to EAC's credo of knowledge, there were two numismatic book dealers at the bourse: Fed Lake of Function Associates in St. Petersburg, Florida and Charles Davis of Morristown, New Jersey. Both gentlemen had fine displays of "copper" books: Newcomb, Sheldon, Gilbert, etc., as well as auction catalogues covering the big copper sales: Brobston, Ryder, Helfenstein, Ruby, Roach, etc. Fred is a real bibliophile and enjoys driving his truck laden with numismatic literature to various shows to spread the word. He has been tagged with the appropriate moniker, "the Johnny Appleseed of numismatic literature." Charles is also eager to dispense knowledge. I was able to pick up two more unlisted (what else?) Gilbert half cent reprints - one of my interests. Fred and Charles had fairly steady traffic as information is always in high demand among copper collectors which is why copies, especially originals, of PENNY-WISE are fetching such nice prices. EAC should be congratulated for having the foresight to invite book dealers to the bourse. I hope that their number will only increase at future conventions.

While I was viewing the auction lots which were ably and efficiently handled by various EAC personnel, I walked the dean of U.S. numismatics - Walter Breen. He looks exactly like the photograph IN his half cent tome - a cross between Zeus and Jerry Garcia. He was wearing a shirt that must have included batteries, and was carting a two-wheeler loaded with various texts and notebooks. At every table he was presented with various interesting pieces, and discussed each one, while he was taking copious notes. It was a great learning experience to see the old master in action.

Off to the exhibit - truly spectacular. Even the most seasoned copperphiles were impressed by the displays. I found the most awe inspiring to be: New Jersey colonials (John Griffe), Colonial Counterfeits, etc. (Mike Ringo), Connecticut Errors (just your common garden variety full obverse or reverse brockages) assembled by Robert Martin, Massachusetts Coppers as well as various other exhibits of colonial coinage. This last display deserved best-of-show, "Massachusetts Silver" - N.E. coinage, Oak and Pine Tree coinage, an interesting (and possibly unique) John Adams medal, etc. Comments such as "finest known", "better than the Smithsonian piece", "ex-Garrett", and "unique" abounded. It was hard to believe that one could see all of this choice material in such a modest setting. Not to be overlooked was Charles Davis' excellent display of "Books that Preceded Sheldon and Newcomb", including Chapman, Crosby, Doughty, Gilbert, and other turn-of-the-century biggies.

Once the bourse closed I went to grab a bite to eat at the hotel diner. As I was getting ready to pay my bill, I spied John Adams at a table. Meekly, I introduced myself and congratulated Mr. Adams on his recently released Volume 2 of the Encyclopedia of U.S. Numismatic Literature. he actually asked me to sit down and chat with him! What a great guy. He told me about the difficulties George Kolbe and he had in getting the right paper for the book. He also told me that his "new" collecting interest was Early American medals minted in France. (What a scoop! I immediately made plans to mortgage the house and buy whatever medals I could put my hands on.)

Since it was getting late and the educational forum was coming up, I thanked Mr. Adams and headed to the forum. It is really encouraging to learn how approachable and kind these people of numismatic stature really are.

The hallway to the forum was packed because no one remembered to bring the key to the meeting room. As we waited to get in, I paused to wonder what could happen if an earthquake would suddenly hit Boston. The sixth floor of the hotel held about 90% of the world's cumulative knowledge about early American coinage - Adams, Breen, Hodder, Loring, Wright, etc. Fortunately an earthquake did not hit, and the audience was treated to a fine forum.

John Adams spoke first on "Reminiscences of a Large Cent Collector". He told many anecdotes of encounters with the major numismatists of the era - John Ford, Charles Wormser, Etc., as well as the good Dr. Sheldon. The stories made the large cent enthusiasts and bibliophiles drool. Unfortunately, my dreams of making a fortune collecting early American medals was dashed when Mr. Adams spoke of his collecting interest. Frank Wilkinson gave a fine presentation about Colonel Green, the son of the wicked-witch-o-Wall Street, Hettie Green. It seems that the enigmatic Green was the Donald Trump of his time, amassing a collection second only (at the time) to Virgil Brand. Bill Jones gave an informative talk on Massachusetts colonial silver, including the theory behind Witch's Pieces and various varieties of the issues. Mike Packard wrapped things up with a presentation on attributing Massachusetts coppers. The man's knowledge on the subject is profound as he quoted the various obverse and reverse die varieties, and the emission sequences of several fairly lengthy issues of Massachusetts cents and half cents. As unbelievable as it may sound, it was a great place to spend a Friday night.

I spent Saturday cruising the bourse floor looking for anything that slipped by me the first time

around. I met Hank Spangenberg and we chatted about his adventures and misadventures in a 25+ year career in numismatics. Enough to write a book. Don Valenziano was inviting everyone to partake of some of his birthday cake. I spoke with Alan Weinberg and got a couple of nice Cleveland tokens from his impressive "good for" offerings. Bill Noyes was still clicking away taking pictures of choice large cents. [Editor's note: Bill has an ongoing project of making a color photographic record of all significant large cents.] I noticed that more of the dealers were huddling with each other in hushed tones - definitely heavy deals going down. After another two hour peek at the exhibits, I went out for a quiet dinner and reviewed my bidding notes for the auction which was to commence at 7:00 P M.

The auction was very well attended with the comments that this was the largest turnout ever. The numismatic literature in the sale did pretty well. Some highlights included a hardbound Floyd Starr catalogue for \$210; a hardbound Halpern sale for \$310, and a run of PENNY-WISE (1974 to 1989) for \$260. The colonial lots were few but a 1797 Fugio cent grading EF-40 went for \$500. There were 40 lots of half cents with a 1794 C-6A (Good-5?) going for \$2700, a 1795 C-5B (VG-8) getting \$1050, and a dirty 1809 C-2 (VF-20) reaching \$1100.

The large cents made up the bulk of the sale (389 lots) with a 1798 S-170 (VF-30) going for \$1600, an 1803 S 264 (Fair-2) grabbing \$3800, an 1825 N-1 (Fair-2?) fetching \$2600, an 1829 N-2 (MS-60) brought \$1800, and 1830 N-9 (Good-4?) got \$4600, an MS-63 1830 N-8B got \$1800, an 1834 N-6 (AU-55) grabbing \$2600, two 1835 N-19s both VG-7 getting \$2100 and \$1700 respectively, an 1839 N-6 (MS-60) got \$2000. The top price was an 1855 N-11 (Proof-60) pulling down \$6200. Veteran EACers said that this sale had fewer big ticket items than in previous years, but that it was still a "good" sale. Despite having a cold, Denis Loring, the noted large cent specialist, did an excellent job as auctioneer dispensing the 445 lots in an orderly but quick fashion.

My only criticism of the auction was the overwhelming influence which the large cents played in the auction. Relatively few lots were assigned to book, colonials, and half cents - less than 12% of the total - further no Hard Times tokens were offered. Fortunately, at the general meeting, it was announced by Phil Ralls that a specific number of lots in next year's sale would be set aside for these forsaken, albeit just as important, items.

Besides the general meeting, Sunday was relatively uneventful. Most of the dealers were packing up; so it was a good time to get a deal on material that had seemed out-of-reach a mere 24 hours earlier.

All in all, the meeting was a copper collectors dream. The coins were great and the EAC members made the convention fun. Fortunately EAC still retains the "one big (usually) happy family atmosphere" that encourages participation. If you are able to attend an annual convention, I strongly recommend doing so. Finally, all of the people involved with the convention, especially the various convention chairmen - Pete Boisvert and Ronnie Adam - should be congratulated for a memorable, well-run show.

ANOTHER MASTERPIECE FROM JOHN W. ADAMS

In the last few weeks, we received our long anticipated copies of Volume II of John Adams' UNITED STATES NUMISMATIC LITERATURE: Twentieth Century Auction Catalogs. Adams' honored first volume which dealt with nineteenth century American numismatic auction catalogs has already become the standard reference.

This volume has the same appearance, the same approach, and the same organization as has Volume I. However, I believe that for this volume may be regarded as even more valuable than the first volume, as we have found that numismatic bibliophiles and collectors tend to be more

interested in the catalogues of this century. Of special interest are that Adams has listed all of the catalogues of Mehl, Elder, Stack's, and all of the various Wayte Raymond efforts, in addition to listing the efforts of other significant twentieth century cataloguers in one volume so that it half again as long as Volume I. I would be remiss if I did not mention that John is a most talented writer whose efforts compel one to read the entire work from cover to cover.

We have already incorporated Adams' overall ratings and individual category ratings in our soon to released next auction catalogue. Both the quantity and the quality of Mr. Adams' efforts in writing this work deserve our highest accolades. We certainly must not overlook the efforts of George Kolbe who published this handsome volume. In fact, the challenges that Mr. Kolbe faced deserve an article of their own.

The new volume can be purchased from George Kolbe for \$135 who is also including as a free gift nearly \$100 of his (George's) important auction catalogues. While the purchase price may hold some of you back, this is such an important, unique reference that I would encourage each of you to get a copy, and to get a copy soon. I could not imagine anyone being disappointed by this purchase.

THE PITTSBURGH - LOUISVILLE EXPRESS

Taking the "A" Train to the Armand Champa Numismatic Library

by Wayne K. Homren

For some time now I have been working to compile a history of my local coin club, the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society. Founded in 1878 the WPNS is one of the oldest coin clubs in the country. Hoping to turn up some interesting nuggets in contemporary 19th century numismatic publications, I arranged a research trip to Armand Champa's library in Louisville, Kentucky. Accompanying me were fellow WPNS members John Burns and Larry Bassett. The trip took place over the weekend of May 17-19, 1991.

At about 2:00 P.M. Friday we set out from Larry Bassett's neatly painted Victorian home on our journey to Louisville. I maneuvered my Honda onto the highway and into the midst of the weekend rush hour. Sucking exhaust fumes is no way to start a weekend, but across the river and through the tunnel to Armand's house we went.

Once out into the countryside, Larry napped while John helped me to plot our research strategy. I planned to make a beeline for the **Mason's Coin Journals**. John offered to peruse the various Elder house organs, and we assigned **Mehl's Numismatic Monthly** to Larry. We passed up the obvious **The Numismatist** and the **American Journal of Numismatics** since we had access to complete sets of those at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Library. I had already searched my reprints of **Frossard's Numisma** and the first six volumes of **The Numismatist**.

The Ohio countryside was beautiful, but I sure wish they would find some fertilizer that didn't stink like ..., well, that smelled more like roses, perhaps. Having had late lunches, no one was particularly hungry until well after dark. As we approached Cincinnati I recalled an earlier visit to the area for the 1989 Early American Coppers Convention at the Drawbridge Inn in Lexington. My suggestion for the Drawbridge was unanimously accepted.

We pulled into the parking lot with a nearly empty gas tank and even emptier bellies. Fortunately we were seated almost immediately at the restaurant and proceeded to order liquid refreshments. Conveniently the Oldenberg micro-brewery is located next to the restaurant, providing an endless supply of fresh suds. Also features at the Oldenberg complex is the world's largest collection of

brewery artifacts. The walls of the restaurant, bar, and great beer hall are filed with cases exhibiting rare beer bottles, cans, advertising signs, trays, and even church keys (bottle openers). After dinner we wandered through the building examining the collection.

We dawdled until it was pretty late, but we figured - Heck, Louisville is only an hour or so away, so what's the big rush? After gassing up we hit the road once more. Faithfully following my flawless directions we ended up hopelessly lost. Eventually we figured out that we were only off by one exit from where we wanted to be, but close does not count much in a strange town after dark. As we read the road map we noticed a young man stopped behind us with car trouble. He was from Indiana, and his beat up car was spewing more steam than Godzilla with indigestion. We gave him a ride to a nearby gas station. His car swallowed a gallon of water and two quarts of oil without even belching. We had to be on our way, but we wished him luck. That car was going nowhere fast.

We quickly located Shelbyville Road, but Howard Johnson's was nowhere to be found. To make a long story short, we ended up exploring several miles of road in several directions, stopping in several places for help. When one woman told us, "You go straight ahead for 15 lights, pass under the overpass, bear right and there it is," we figured that she must know what she was talking about or else she would have a hell of a laugh at us dumb Yankees. Sure enough, there it was. 15 lights ahead, under the overpass, plain as day. Too bad for us that Howard Johnson's sold the place to a new owner who closed the restaurant, turned off the old sign, disconnected the phone number, and reopened under a new name. What the heck, 2 A.M. ain't so late.

Rising at the crack of 9:30 Saturday morning, we blundered across the street for brunch at the Big Boy. We put our poor gum-cracking waitress through hell, but we muddled through and before long Armand arrived to meet us. I introduced Larry to Armand and soon Larry was getting into Armand's car for the short ride to his house. I followed pretty closely since I didn't want to lose them, but I had visions of traffic stopping suddenly, causing me to rear-end Armand's Ferrari. It would have made a great story, but we pulled into his driveway without incident.

Before long we were hard at work. It was fascinating to read through the Mason's, although I didn't find as many Pittsburgh references as I'd hoped. Larry found several references to club meetings in various Mehl publications. John found a few references to founder George Rode in the Proceedings of the NAS, and turned up a couple of minor items in the Elder stuff. He had a great laugh reading The Numismatic Philistine. Ask him sometime about the Proceedings of the Darktown Numismatic Society....

The thing that stopped me cold was a copy of the 1879 Adler sale. The catalog was in mint condition and bore the WPNS library stamp. Jonas Adler was a Pittsburgher who issued just one auction catalog. Adler never became a member of the WPNS, and the July 1879 issue of Frossard's NUMISMA indicates why: "Dealers sending coins on approval to Mr. Jonas Adler, Pittsburgh, PA, will do well, if they wish to assure a safe delivery, to address the distinguished coin dealer in care of one of the Town Justices, or of the Sheriff of the County."

In what was probably a typical day for Armand, his phone rang regularly with calls from numismatic cognoscenti from across the country. After speaking with NBS President P. Scott Rubin, Armand passed me the phone so we could discuss some society business. Soon I was back in the library.

We kept plowing ahead for most of the afternoon, with occasional breaks for refreshments and chatter. Discussing dinner plans, Armand told us about the fantastic new Italian restaurant where he had made reservations. John, recalling the to-die-for steak served at DelFrisco's on our last visit, lamented that we weren't going back this time. "I'm a carnivore; if I have to eat spaghetti, I'd want a meatball THIS big," he said placing his hands several inches apart.

Before finishing our visit, each of us found time to examine books that caught our respective

fancies. John looked over a plated copy of the Jenks sale. Civil War token buff Larry checked out Armand's interleaved and annotated copy of Hettrich-Gutttag. I looked through Armand's collection of numismatic society publications, and had a chance to show off by displaying my copy 1858 of the first Constitution and Bylaws of the ANS. Of course, Armand already had a copy. Finally I spent some time reading Joseph Mickley's diary. Typical entry for a typical day in 1967: "It was a very cloudy day today. Tuned a piano. Went to the Mint and brought 4 proof sets"

I wish I could write something like this in my diary: Miserable rainy day. Drove to Louisville. Went to a yard sale and bought several large boxes of 19th century American numismatic literature. Apparently this nice couple was moving to Las Vegas"

Anyway the time flew quickly and when we looked up it was 8:00 P.M. Chow time! Off we went to Momma Grisanti's with Armand and Larry once again leading the way. John noted that Ferraris travelling under 30 MPH sounded a lot like big lawnmowers. But, boy do they purr when you hit the open road. After jockeying for parking places, we soon entered the restaurant and were ushered to our table.

Armand wasn't kidding when he said this place was good. The garlic bread was out of this world, to say nothing of the appetizers, salads, and house wine. At the perfect moment, all heads in the room turned as the waiter walked in to serve John a plate of spaghetti with the biggest damned meatball you'd ever want to see. The beast must have been six inches across. If only a hidden video camera had been there to record John's expression and Armand's laugh.... Larry and I took some quick photos with our cameras.

Armand had called ahead to put in the fix with the chef. He started with five pounds of meat and cooked the thing for two and a half hours. It was the talk of the restaurant, and half the staff had to stop by to check out the finished product. The more we thought about it, the funnier it got, and soon Larry, Armand, and I were having a giggle fit that nearly put us all on the floor. John was a trooper throughout, and took it well. Ya gotta hand it to Armand....

Eventually we made it through dinner, dessert, and some of the best numismatic biblio-tales we'd ever heard. At about 11:00 P.M. we bid Armand adieu and returned to our motel, stuffed, exhausted, and grinning from ear to ear. Getting up early Sunday, we made the trek home in time for dinner with our families. We posed for one last photo in front of Larry's Wurlitzer jukebox, as it played, "Take the 'A' Train" on an old 45.

Here's to you, Armand, for all your help and hospitality. It was a trip we won't forget.

SOME OTHER NEW BOOKS

This truly is a golden age for numismatic literature. More good writing about more important and wide-ranging numismatic topics are being produced now than ever before. We all waiting for the new books which will be coming out on colonials, patterns, and large cents. However, recently we have received some other books which are worthy of note.

Davisson's Ltd. (Alan and Marni Davisson) in Cold Springs, Minnesota has recently published a high quality reprint of the Dalton and Hamer **THE PROVINCIAL TOKEN-COINAGE OF THE 18TH CENTURY, ILLUSTRATED**. Even the earlier reprints were bringing well over \$100, when they would rarely appear in the marketplace. The new edition is marvelous, magnificent, and highly recommended. It deserves all the kudos possible. However, Davisson's has also produced something else on a more modest scale which I believe to be of lasting value, and which ranks with the best of its genre, ever.

TOKEN CATALOG AND HANDBOOK. 18th Century Tokens as Catalogued by Dalton and Hamer. And Selected Other British Tokens is the title of a jewel of a handbook written and produced by Alan Davisson. The English provincial token-coinage of the 18th century, frequently referred to in a catch-all, but not always accurate, phrase of "Conder Tokens" is a most popular collecting field. This handbook, the result of several years' work, is 95 pages with 12 high quality halftone plates of tokens. More than a mere fixed price list, this effort is divided into 11 unnumbered chapters dealing with Dalton and Hamer, grading, rarity and value, caring for copper, a select annotated bibliography, a fixed price offerings of 18th century tokens, silver trade tokens, some other trade tokens, and pertinent literature for sale.

The extensive, authoritative historical and descriptive text written in a most readable fashion offers a great deal of important information, in addition to an important offering of these tokens. The softbound book is available for \$10.00. 100 numbered copies in a handsome hardbound format were also produced for \$25.00. You've got to have this. The Davissons can be reached at Davissons, Ltd. Cold Spring, MN 56320, or by phone at (612) 685-3835. By the way the superb Dalton and Hamer reprint is available for \$140, which you've got to have also.

We also recently received our 2 volume **A.N.A. CENTENNIAL HISTORY** written by David Bowers. The 1744 pages in 2 volumes bound handsomely in pebbled maroon cloth are a compelling read. QDB could make IRS regulations fascinating reading. Regardless, I am nearly completely through reading the first volume. I have been reading a few chapters each day. It would be quite tempting to read both volumes in their entirety in one sitting. However, that one sitting would probably run into several days. Still, the history and the anecdotes are obviously told with a great deal of affection and respect. So while the earliest issues of **THE NUMISMATIST** are rare and rather expensive, this is an excellent and much less expensive way to acquaint yourself with the notable personalities and events in the history of American numismatics and in the history of the A.N.A.

Essentially what QDB has done is to go through **THE NUMISMATIST** issue by issue, volume by volume, and highlighted the important, noteworthy, and interesting. More than a mere dry history, Bowers' observations are always apt and readable.

On a personal level, this reference has already proved useful to me. In our upcoming mail bid sale, we are offering an 1896 pamphlet by Tatman. I remembered that Tatman was one of the earliest members of the ANA, and that he was rather young. Typically, I would go to my reference library and check out various books to find the correct, complete information. Normally, I would expect that it would take me a half hour to find everything I need. Instead, it was hit the Index of the **A.N.A. CENTENNIAL HISTORY**, I looked up Tatman; buh-bing, buh-boom I found that Tatman was A.N.A. member number 2, and that he had just completed his second year at Harvard when the A.N.A. was formed. I also found that he was first Secretary of the A.N.A. A mere five minutes with the book, and I had my answers. So then it was back to the computer (ahead of schedule) so that I could have the time to annotate some really unimportant auction catalogues.

Anyway, we have recommended about \$500 worth of books so far in various places throughout this issue. What I might suggest here is rather revolutionary. Buy one; buy all. Regardless, **READ THEM!** There really is some neat stuff out there.



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